

**CENTRAL VALLEY ENERGY CENTER
DATA ADEQUACY RESPONSES (01-AFC-22)**

Section 2.5 Noise

12-month Issues

12-NO-1 Data Adequacy Deficiency – Discussion of Fresno County Noise Ordinance and Noise Element standards missing. Affected residences are in Fresno County.

Data Adequacy Response – See Response to 12-NO-2.

12-NO-2 Data Adequacy Deficiency – Need analysis of conformity with Fresno County Noise Ordinance and Noise Element standards.

Data Adequacy Response –

County of Fresno – Noise Element

Table NO-1 summarizes the Land Use Compatibility for Community Noise Environments established in the Noise Element of the County of Fresno's General Plan (January 2000 update):

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TABLE NO-1
Fresno County Land Use Compatibility Guidelines

Land Use Category	Community Noise Exp. Ldn or CNEL dB						INTERPRETATION
	55	60	65	70	75	80	
Residential low-density single family, duplex, mobile homes	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				Normally Acceptable Specific land use is satisfactory, based upon the assumption that any buildings involved are of normal conventional construction, without any special noise requirements.
Residential multi-family	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				
Transient lodging—motels, hotels	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				
Schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, nursing homes	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				Conditionally Acceptable New construction or development should be undertaken only after a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements has been made and needed noise insulation features have been included in the design. Conventional construction, but with closed windows and fresh air supply systems or air conditioning will normally suffice.
Auditoriums, concert halls, amphitheaters	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				
Sports arena, outdoor spectator sports	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				
Playgrounds, neighborhood parks	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				Normally Unacceptable New construction or development should generally be discouraged. If new construction or development does proceed, a detailed analysis of the noise reduction requirements must be made, and needed noise insulation features must be included in the design.
Golf courses, riding stables, water recreation, cemeteries	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				
Office buildings, business commercial and professional	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				
Industrial, manufacturing utilities, agriculture	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				Clearly Unacceptable New construction or development should generally not be undertaken.
	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				
	Shaded	Shaded	Shaded				

Source: Chart HS-1, Land Use Compatibility For Community Noise Environments, County of Fresno General Plan. January 2000.

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County of Fresno – Noise Ordinance

Table NO-2 summarizes the maximum exterior noise levels allowed at affected single- or multiple-family residences, school, hospital, church or public library from noise sources located within the unincorporated area of the county.

TABLE NO-2
Fresno County Noise Ordinance - Maximum Exterior Noise Levels

Cumulative Number of Minutes in any one- hour time period	Equivalent Statistical Descriptor	Noise Level Standards, dBA	
		Daytime (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.)	Nighttime (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.)
30	L ₅₀	50	45
15	L ₂₅	55	50
5	L _{8.33}	60	55
1	L _{1.67}	65	60
0	L _{max}	70	65

Furthermore, each of the noise level standards specified in Table NO-2 shall be reduced by 5 dBA for simple tone noises, noises consisting primarily of speech or music or for recurring impulsive noises.

Table NO-3 summarizes the interior noise levels established in the Fresno County Noise Ordinance.

TABLE NO-3
Fresno County Noise Ordinance - Maximum Interior Noise Levels

Cumulative Number of Minutes in any one- hour time period	Equivalent Statistical Descriptor	Noise Level Standards, dBA	
		Daytime (7 a.m. to 10 p.m.)	Nighttime (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.)
5	L _{8.33}	45	35
1	L _{1.67}	50	40
0	L _{max}	55	45

Conformity with County Noise LORS

The Applicant contends that the County LORS do not apply to the project given the project (i.e., the noise source) is wholly located within the jurisdiction of the City of San Joaquin. The County concurs with this interpretation (personal communication, 11/26/01 with Shari Clark/Fresno County Environmental Health). The analysis of conformity with County LORS is included to ensure the response to the data request is considered adequate.

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The County of Fresno's General Plan "normally acceptable" residential guidelines of 50 to 60 Ldn are equivalent to a continuous noise level of 44 to 54 dBA. The agricultural guidelines extend up to 75 Ldn, equivalent to a continuous noise level of 69 dBA. The predicted plant levels comply with the more restrictive General Plan residential requirements.

The Fresno County Noise Ordinance's most restrictive standard for a continuous noise source, such as CVEC, is the nighttime L50 requirement of 45 dBA. Plant levels exceed this at four locations: R5, R9 (G4), R10 (G5) and G2. If the county noise ordinance is to be evaluated as a cumulative standard (e.g., one that takes into account existing background noise), it would likely also be exceeded at R1 (G1) and R3 (if the existing L50 exceeds 35 dBA and 34 dBA respectively).

Table NO-4 summarizes conformity with Fresno County Noise LORS and Figure 8.5-2R depicts the City/County boundaries (Figure 8.5-2 of the AFC was revised to depict the jurisdictional boundaries).

TABLE NO-4
Conformity of Predicted Noise Levels to Fresno County Exterior Noise LORS

Map Identifier ¹	Located Within the County	Predicted Sound Pressure Level (dBA)	County General Plan Requirements (dBA)	Plant Level Complies with County General Plan	County Ordinance (L50, dBA)	Plant Level Comply with County Ordinance
R1 (G1)	YES	45	44 to 69	YES	45	YES ²
R3	YES	44	44 to 69	YES	45	YES ²
R5	YES	48	44 to 69	YES	45	NO
R9 (G4)	YES	48	44 to 69	YES	45	NO
R10 (G5)	YES	46	44 to 69	YES	45	NO
G2	NO	49	44 to 69	YES	45	NO

Notes:

1. Refer to Figure 8.5-2R for map depicting receptor locations, City Boundaries and predicted plant noise levels.
2. Assuming County Ordinance does not take into account existing ambient.

6-month Issues

6-NO-1 Data Adequacy Deficiency – Fresno County Noise Ordinance and Noise Element standards are missing. Affected residences are in Fresno County.

Data Adequacy Response – See Response to 12-NO-2.

6-NO-2 Data Adequacy Deficiency – No demonstration that project will comply with Fresno County requirements.

Data Adequacy Response – See Response to 12-NO-2

